

Guarantee college tuition Guarantee peace of mind

Annual Enrollment Period
September 15 - March 31

Washington State's 529 Prepaid College Tuition Program





Young children are full of energy, creativity and hope. No matter which path they choose, a college education will help them succeed.



Guarantee your peace of mind

Prepay for college now

The Guaranteed Education Tuition Program is Washington's 529 prepaid college tuition program. With GET, you prepay for your child's future college tuition with today's dollars. The money you invest is guaranteed by the State of Washington to keep pace with rising college tuition, no matter how much it increases in the future.¹

You don't have to worry about the ups and downs of the stock market or whether you've saved enough. And you have peace of mind knowing that your money will be there when your child is ready for college.

State guarantee

The State of Washington guarantees that if you buy 100 GET units today, you'll have one year of college tuition when your child is ready for college.

Your GET units are guaranteed to keep pace with tuition at Washington's most expensive public university, either the University of Washington or Washington State University.

Choice of colleges nationwide

You can use your GET account at nearly any public or private college or vocational school in the country and at some schools around the world.

The monetary value of your account is the same, whether your child attends a local community college or a private college in another state.

Tax-free savings and withdrawals

The money you put into your GET account grows tax-free. And, when your child is ready for college, the money you withdraw will be tax-free, as long as you use it for qualified higher education expenses.²

Flexibility and control

You can use your account for tuition, room and board, books or other qualified higher education expenses. If your child doesn't go to college or receives a scholarship, you can transfer your account to another family member or request a refund. And, unlike some other savings options, you maintain control over your account.

Easy ways to save

You can set up a monthly payment plan, send a check when you have extra money to contribute, or choose a combination of the two.

You can open an account for anyone – your child, grandchild, friend or even yourself. The only requirement is that either the account owner or student be a Washington resident at the time of enrollment in the program.

> Washington's GET program has been among the fastest-growing 529 prepaid tuition plans in the country for five years in a row.

Source: College Savings Plan Network

¹ The value of GET units is based on resident undergraduate tuition and state-mandated fees at the most expensive public university in Washington, either the University of Washington or Washington State University.

² Review IRS Publication 970 and GET Program Details for a list of qualified higher education expenses.

Guarantee choice and flexibility

Select nearly any public or private college *nationwide*

You can use your GET account at nearly any college, university or vocational school – public or private – in the country as well as some schools around the world. So your child has nearly unlimited choices, whether she decides to attend a private college a thousand miles away or a community college closer to home.

You can use GET units at any school that participates in federal financial aid programs. For a complete list of eligible schools in the United States and other countries, go to the U.S. Department of Education's Free Application for Federal Student Aid Web site at www.fafsa.ed.gov/FOTWebApp/FSLookupServlet

Choose how and when to save

You decide how much and how often you want to save, and then select the payment plan that works best for you. If your needs or finances change, you can adjust your plan.

Decide how and when to use your GET account

Your family's circumstances may change between when you enroll in GET and when your child is ready for college. You decide how and when to use your GET account.³

You can use your GET account for tuition, room and board, books, or other qualified higher education expenses.

If your child decides not to go to college, you can wait up to 10 years to see if he changes his mind, transfer your GET account to another family member, or request a refund.

If your child receives a scholarship, you can use your GET account to cover room and board or other qualified higher education expenses, transfer the account to another family member, or request a refund for the scholarship amount.

Best of all, the account owner — not the beneficiary — maintains control over the account.

> Since 1998, GET families have opened more than 106,000 accounts worth over \$1.1 billion. Already, \$126 million in GET units have been used by more than 13,500 students to pay for higher education.

³ State law requires account owners to hold GET units for at least two years before they can use them. See GET Program Details for more information.



Guarantee value no matter how much tuition increases

You can buy up to 500 GET units per student at today's cost and know their value will increase each year. Over the past ten years, Washington's college tuition has risen an average of 8% annually, but with GET, the state guarantees your units will keep pace with rising tuition.⁴ So start saving now for your child's future and watch your account value grow.

What GET units can buy today

While the GET program is designed to pay for tuition, you can use your units to meet other higher education costs. If your child receives a scholarship, or attends a school with lower tuition, you can use your extra GET units for room, board, books, or other qualified expenses.

Guarantee your child's opportunities Watch your savings grow

You can use your GET account for tuition or other qualified higher education expenses at nearly any college, university or vocational school in the country.⁵ And you decide how much and how often to save. Purchase GET units in any amount (from 1 to 500 units per child) and watch your savings grow.

For example:⁶



100 units = Tuition at a college or university⁷ for 1 year



39 units = Tuition at a community college or vocational school for 1 year

You can also use GET units to meet other higher education costs. Every unit counts, so no matter how you begin, start saving today.

For example:



37 units = Campus dorm room for 1 semester



12 units = Books and supplies for 1 semester

> College tuition rises each year, so start saving now for the greatest benefit. Lump Sum GET units purchased ten enrollment years ago have nearly doubled in value.

⁴ Revised Code of Washington 28B.95.050.

⁵ For a complete list of schools see www.fafsa.ed.gov/FOTWebApp/FSLookupServlet.

⁶ All four examples shown are estimates and are based on the cost of various college expenses as of September 1, 2009. Actual costs may be higher or lower when it's time for your child to go to college. Review IRS Publication 970 and GET Program Details for a list of qualified higher education expenses.

⁷ The value of GET units is based on resident undergraduate tuition and state-mandated fees at the most expensive public university in Washington, either the University of Washington or Washington State University.

She can play nurse for hours at a time.
And you can guarantee her future opportunities
when you plan ahead for college tuition.



Guarantee that you won't have to worry

Stop tuition inflation

GET works on a unit system, with 100 GET units equal to one year of resident undergraduate tuition and state-mandated fees at the most expensive Washington public university, either the University of Washington or Washington State University.

The State of Washington guarantees that if you buy one year of college tuition today (100 GET units), you'll have one year of college tuition when your child is ready for college – even if tuition doubles or triples.⁸ You can buy between 1 and 500 GET units for each child.

Your child can use the units at nearly any public or private college in the country. The value of the units is the same, whether your child attends an in-state public college or an out-of-state private college.

If tuition at your child's college is lower than the resident undergraduate tuition and state-mandated fees at the UW or WSU, you can use your extra units for room and board, books, or other qualified higher education expenses. If your child's tuition is higher, you'll pay the difference.

A guarantee backed by state law

GET's tuition guarantee is backed by the full faith and credit of the State of Washington. That means if future tuition increases ever require the program to pay out more money than it has available, the Legislature is required by state law to provide funding to cover the shortfall. The GET Program is one of only a few state 529 programs in the country with a guarantee in state law.⁹

100 GET UNITS 1 YEAR OF TUITION
today = tomorrow
GUARANTEED!

100 GET Units Today Equal

1 year of tuition at the most expensive in-state public university later

When your child is ready for college, your 100 units will pay for one year of tuition and state-mandated fees at the most expensive public university in Washington, generally the University of Washington or Washington State University.

OR

The same dollar value for use at another public or private college later

You'll receive the dollar value of one year of tuition and state-mandated fees at the most expensive public university in Washington. You can apply that dollar value toward tuition or other qualified college expenses at nearly any public or private college in the country.

⁸ The value of GET units is based on resident undergraduate tuition and state-mandated fees at the most expensive public university in Washington.

⁹ Revised Code of Washington 28B.95.050.

Someday your son may want to be an engineer. By saving for college today you can help him discover his future career.



Guarantee a smart investment

Enjoy tax-free savings and withdrawals

Because GET is a state 529 plan, the after-tax money you put in will grow tax-free. And when your child is ready for college, the money you withdraw will be tax-free too as long as you use it for tuition, room and board, books, or other qualified higher education expenses.

Receive favorable financial aid treatment

A GET account is considered an asset of the account owner.¹⁰ If the parent is the account owner, the GET account is considered an asset of the parent rather than the student, causing less impact on the student's eligibility for financial aid, as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Take advantage of federal gift tax and estate planning benefits

You can buy up to 500 GET units per child in one year at a cost of \$50,500 without incurring any federal gift taxes. Even though you maintain control of the GET account, it's not included in your taxable estate.¹¹

How an investment in GET has grown over time

Families that bought 100 Lump Sum GET units in 1999 paid \$3,800. Those units are worth \$7,600 today — double their original cost.¹²

Of course, the actual increase in value of your GET account will vary depending on when you buy your units, when your child goes to college and how much tuition rates change over time.

The GET unit price includes a premium over current tuition. Consequently, you should plan to hold your GET units for at least four or five years before your account shows financial gain.¹³ The GET program provides greater benefit the longer units are held, so it's best to start saving early.

How GET differs from other state 529 plans

State prepaid tuition plans, like GET, and state college savings plans are known as 529 plans after the IRS federal tax code that allows them. Under both plans, the after-tax money you put in will grow tax-free and all withdrawals will be exempt from federal income taxes as long as you use them for qualified higher education expenses.

However, with a 529 college savings plan, you take on all of the investment risk and worries associated with volatile financial markets. With GET, the State of Washington assumes the investment risk so you don't have to worry.

	529 Prepaid Tuition Plan (GET)	529 College Savings Plan
Tax-deferred growth	✓	✓
Tax-free withdrawals	✓	✓
Favorable financial aid treatment	✓	✓
Investment choice and risk	State chooses investments, shoulders investment risk	You choose investments, shoulder investment risk
Future value of your account	Guaranteed by the state to keep pace with rising college tuition	Based on the performance of your chosen investments

¹⁰ If the GET account owner is not the parent, the value of the GET account is not included in the FAFSA (as of September 2009).

¹¹ Review GET Program Details and consult your tax advisor for more information.

¹² This figure is based on one year of resident undergraduate tuition and state-mandated fees at the most expensive public university in Washington in fall 2009.

¹³ State law requires account owners to hold GET units for at least two years before using them. See GET Program Details for more information.

Create your plan

1. Determine your child's benefit year.

See the chart at the right to project your child's benefit use year. The projected benefit use year is the year your child is expected to graduate from high school and enter college.

Determining your child's projected benefit use year

Student Beneficiary Age/Grade as of August 31, 2009	Projected Benefit Use Year
Born after August 31, 2009	Fall 2028
Newborn, less than Age 1	Fall 2027
Age 1	Fall 2026
Age 2	Fall 2025
Age 3	Fall 2024
Age 4/5 (not in kindergarten)	Fall 2023
Kindergarten	Fall 2022
1st Grade	Fall 2021
2nd Grade	Fall 2020
3rd Grade	Fall 2019
4th Grade	Fall 2018
5th Grade	Fall 2017
6th Grade	Fall 2016
7th Grade	Fall 2015
8th Grade	Fall 2014
9th Grade	Fall 2013
10th Grade	Fall 2012
11th Grade*	Fall 2012
12th Grade and Adults*	Fall 2012

* Washington state law requires a two-year waiting period before units may be used. However, you should plan to hold your units for four to five years before use in order to realize financial gain.

2. Choose your plan

Custom Monthly Plan

A defined monthly payment plan. Your monthly payment remains the same throughout the term of your contract. You can select a contract between 50 and 500 units for each child. For example, if you decide to buy one year of college tuition (100 GET units) for your two-year-old child through a Custom Monthly Plan, you could choose to pay \$95 per month over 15 years. Or you could choose to pay \$122 per month over 10 years and save over \$2,460 in finance charges.

Your contract locks in the current \$101 unit price and includes a 7.5 percent finance charge,¹⁴ so it's best to choose the shortest payment term you can comfortably afford. To use your units, your contract must be paid in full and your account must be open for at least two calendar years.

Custom monthly plans include a 7.5% finance charge, and current unit prices reflect a premium that makes the GET program a better savings plan when held for four to five years.

¹⁴This charge is included because the GET program guarantees your return but only receives the funds to invest over an extended period of time.

Custom Monthly Plan 2009-10 enrollment year		Choose your monthly payment									
Projected Benefit Use Year	Payment Term (in years)	50 Units	100 Units	150 Units	200 Units	250 Units	300 Units	350 Units	400 Units	450 Units	500 Units
Fall 2012	1	\$ 443	\$ 885	\$ 1,326	\$ 1,768	\$ 2,209	\$ 2,651	\$ 3,093	\$ 3,534	\$ 3,976	\$ 4,417
Fall 2012	2	\$ 231	\$ 459	\$ 688	\$ 917	\$ 1,146	\$ 1,374	\$ 1,603	\$ 1,832	\$ 2,061	\$ 2,289
Fall 2013	3	\$ 160	\$ 318	\$ 476	\$ 634	\$ 792	\$ 950	\$ 1,107	\$ 1,265	\$ 1,423	\$ 1,581
Fall 2014	4	\$ 125	\$ 247	\$ 370	\$ 492	\$ 615	\$ 738	\$ 860	\$ 983	\$ 1,106	\$ 1,228
Fall 2015	5	\$ 103	\$ 205	\$ 306	\$ 408	\$ 510	\$ 611	\$ 713	\$ 814	\$ 916	\$ 1,017
Fall 2016	6	\$ 89	\$ 177	\$ 264	\$ 352	\$ 439	\$ 527	\$ 614	\$ 702	\$ 789	\$ 877
Fall 2017	7	\$ 79	\$ 157	\$ 235	\$ 312	\$ 390	\$ 467	\$ 545	\$ 622	\$ 700	\$ 777
Fall 2018	8	\$ 72	\$ 142	\$ 212	\$ 282	\$ 353	\$ 423	\$ 493	\$ 563	\$ 633	\$ 703
Fall 2019	9	\$ 66	\$ 131	\$ 195	\$ 259	\$ 324	\$ 388	\$ 453	\$ 517	\$ 581	\$ 646
Fall 2020	10	\$ 62	\$ 122	\$ 181	\$ 241	\$ 301	\$ 361	\$ 421	\$ 481	\$ 540	\$ 600
Fall 2021	11	\$ 58	\$ 114	\$ 170	\$ 227	\$ 283	\$ 339	\$ 395	\$ 451	\$ 507	\$ 563
Fall 2022	12	\$ 55	\$ 108	\$ 161	\$ 214	\$ 267	\$ 321	\$ 374	\$ 427	\$ 480	\$ 533
Fall 2023	13	\$ 52	\$ 103	\$ 154	\$ 204	\$ 255	\$ 305	\$ 356	\$ 406	\$ 457	\$ 507
Fall 2024	14	\$ 50	\$ 99	\$ 147	\$ 195	\$ 244	\$ 292	\$ 341	\$ 389	\$ 437	\$ 486
Fall 2025	15	\$ 48	\$ 95	\$ 142	\$ 188	\$ 235	\$ 281	\$ 328	\$ 374	\$ 421	\$ 467
Fall 2026	16	\$ 47	\$ 92	\$ 137	\$ 182	\$ 227	\$ 272	\$ 316	\$ 361	\$ 406	\$ 451
Fall 2027	17	\$ 45	\$ 89	\$ 133	\$ 176	\$ 220	\$ 263	\$ 307	\$ 350	\$ 394	\$ 437
Fall 2028	18	\$ 44	\$ 87	\$ 129	\$ 171	\$ 214	\$ 256	\$ 298	\$ 340	\$ 383	\$ 425



Lump Sum Plan

A “pay as you go” plan. You buy units whenever you want and contribute any amount of money you choose. You can buy between 1 and 500 units, including partial units, for each child. However, you must purchase at least 1 unit when you open your account. When you buy units, you pay the unit price (currently \$101) in effect at the time we receive your payment. The unit price may increase on May 1 and September 1 every year. Units must be held in a Lump Sum account for at least two calendar years before you can use them.

Plan to hold the units four to five years before your account shows financial gain.

Choose the number of units you want to purchase

Lump Sum Plan 2009-10 enrollment year

You can buy between 1 and 500 units per child at this year’s \$101 unit price.

Example 1:

If you buy 150 units at \$101 per unit, you will pay \$15,150. (150 units X \$101 per unit = \$15,150)

Example 2:

If you have \$2,500, you can buy 24.752 units at the \$101 unit price. ($\$2,500 \div \$101 \text{ per unit} = 24.752 \text{ units}$)

Can’t decide?

You can save through both plans.

If you open a Custom Monthly Plan account, you can buy Lump Sum units at any time. When you mail us a check, just tell us whether you want to apply the money to your Custom Monthly payments or a Lump Sum purchase.



Grandparents open GET accounts to help their children – and their grandchildren – save for higher education expenses.

3. Choose your payment method

Payment coupons

When you enroll, we’ll send you a book of payment coupons within 6–8 weeks, unless you set up automatic withdrawal or payroll deduction. Just send us a coupon with your check or money order by the 15th day of every month for the Custom Monthly Plan or whenever you have extra money to contribute for the Lump Sum Plan.

Automatic monthly withdrawal

Money is automatically withdrawn each month from your bank or credit union account and deposited directly into your GET account.

Just sign up online or complete an automatic withdrawal authorization form available on our Web site. Payments will be taken out of your bank or credit union account on the 15th day of each month.

Payroll deduction

Money is deducted from your paycheck and deposited directly into your GET account.

If your employer already participates in GET payroll deduction, simply complete the payroll deduction form available on our Web site. To determine if your employer offers it, visit our Web site or call us.

If your employer does not participate, we’ll contact your organization’s payroll office and work to set it up.

Online payments

You can transfer money from your bank directly to your GET account through our electronic bank transfer system. US Bank charges a \$1 processing fee for each payment. Visit our Web site or call us to learn more.

Credit cards and debit cards: *You may use a credit card or debit card to pay the one-time enrollment fee only. You cannot buy units or make a payment with a credit card or debit card.*

Questions?

Call us. We’re here to help.

GET Customer Service: 1.800.955.2318
or visit our Web site at www.get.wa.gov

An archeologist in the making?
Your GET account helps you plan ahead for
his future. It guarantees your peace of mind.



Comparing ways to save

	GET 529 Prepaid Tuition Plan¹⁵	529 College Savings Plan¹⁵	Coverdell Education Savings Account¹⁶ (Education IRA)	Custodial Account¹⁷ (UGMA/UTMA)
Does this account grow tax-free?	Yes, withdrawals are tax-free when used for qualified higher education expenses. ¹⁸	Yes, withdrawals are tax-free when used for qualified higher education expenses. ¹⁸	Yes, withdrawals are tax-free when used for qualified higher education expenses or elementary/secondary education.	No, regular tax rules apply.
Who can participate?	Either the student or account owner must be a resident of Washington at the time of enrollment. The account owner may be an individual, trust, corporation, partnership or other entity. The account owner does not have to be related to the student.	Rules vary by plan.	Your modified AGI ¹⁹ must be less than \$110,000 if you file an individual tax return (\$220,000 for a joint tax return).	Everyone.
How much can I contribute?	Total units cannot exceed 500 per student.	Varies by state plan. The highest limit is about \$365,000 per student.	\$2,000 annually.	Unlimited.
What can withdrawals be used for?	To pay qualified higher education expenses. ¹⁸ The student must be enrolled at least half-time to pay room and board.	To pay qualified higher education expenses. ¹⁸ The student must be enrolled at least half-time to pay room and board.	To pay expenses associated with higher education as well as primary and secondary education. The student must be enrolled at least half-time to pay room and board.	Rules vary by state, but withdrawals can be made for any reason.
Can I change student beneficiaries?	Yes, within the immediate family, including cousins.	Yes, within the immediate family, including cousins.	Yes, if the new student is under the age of 30 and the original student gives consent.	No.
Who are the best candidates for this type of account?	Those who prefer a guaranteed return based on the rate of tuition inflation.	Those who want to contribute to a tax-free college fund and have some control over their investments.	Parents who want maximum control over their investment options and don't have more than \$2,000 to contribute annually.	Those who want to transfer assets to a young student and are comfortable turning over control once the student is of age.
Who controls the account?	The account owner retains control.	The account owner retains control.	Either the account owner or the student may have control depending on how the account was set up.	Until the student is of age, a custodian controls the account. Once the student is of age, he/she gains control of the account.
Is there a guarantee? How safe is my investment?	Yes. Your account is guaranteed by the State of Washington to keep pace with resident undergraduate tuition and state-mandated fees at the most expensive public university in Washington.	No. The value of the account is based on the portfolio value at the time of withdrawal or disbursement.	No. Depending on the type of account (savings/brokerage), the value of the account is based on interest earned or the portfolio value at the time of withdrawal or disbursement.	No. Depending on the type of account (savings/brokerage), the value of the account is based on interest earned or the portfolio value at the time of withdrawal or disbursement.

¹⁵ A qualified tuition program (QTP) under Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code. Plans vary by state.

¹⁶ A non-deductible plan that, with certain income and contribution limits, allows you to invest for college-related expenses. May be used for primary or secondary education.

¹⁷ A brokerage account with custodial account registration that invests in mutual funds and individual securities, including stocks and bonds, on behalf of a minor.

¹⁸ Qualified higher education expenses include tuition, fees, books, supplies, equipment required for enrollment or attendance, and, in most cases, room and board.

¹⁹ AGI: Adjusted Gross Income from your federal tax return.

Enroll now

Enroll online

It's easy and fast to enroll online. Visit our Web site at www.get.wa.gov and click on "Enroll Now." If you prefer to enroll by mail, please complete the enrollment form in the back of this enrollment kit and mail it to us. You may also download an enrollment form from our Web site.

You will need the following information

- **About you (Account Owner)**
Social Security number and contact information
- **About your student (Beneficiary)**
Social Security number, contact information, date of birth, and projected benefit use year
- **About your plan selection**
Lump Sum Plan or Custom Monthly Plan

Please thoroughly review the GET Program Details before you enroll. We charge a \$50 non-refundable enrollment fee for each GET account, with a maximum \$100 fee per family. As the account owner, you may qualify for the \$100 maximum family fee if you open more than two accounts for students with the same home address. You can pay the enrollment fee by credit card or check.

After you enroll, a welcome letter with payment dates and a coupon book will each follow within a few weeks. Your account can usually be viewed online within ten working days.



Just for babies

Children from birth to twelve months of age may be enrolled year-round.

Call for details. Proof of birthdate is required between March 31 and September 15, 2010.

Important dates

Opening an account

- September 15, 2009** The 2009-2010 enrollment year begins. You can open an account at the \$101 unit price.
- March 31, 2010** The 2009-2010 enrollment year ends. If you enroll online, you must complete your enrollment by midnight on March 31. If you enroll by mail, your enrollment form must be postmarked by March 31.
- Online enrollment gets congested during the final week of the enrollment period. To avoid frustration, please enroll early.*

Buying units for your account (If your account was opened by March 31, 2010)

- April 30, 2010** April 30 is the last day to buy Lump Sum units at the \$101 unit price. We must receive your payment by April 30. (We do not accept April 30 postmarks.) If we receive your payment after April 30, we will post it at the unit price in effect on May 1.
- May 1, 2010** The GET Program may increase the unit price for Lump Sum purchases. Call Customer Service for details, or check our Web site.
- August 31, 2010** August 31 is the last day to buy Lump Sum units at the unit price set on May 1. We must receive your payment by August 31. (We do not accept August 31 postmarks.) If we receive your payment after August 31, we will post it at the unit price in effect on September 1.
- September 1, 2010** The GET Program may set a new unit price for the 2010-2011 enrollment year. This affects both Lump Sum purchases and Custom Monthly plans. Call Customer Service for details, or check our Web site.

Open an account by March 31, 2010





Guarantee your child's future

Contact us

Email: GETInfo@hecb.wa.gov

Telephone: 1.800.955.2318 (toll-free) or
360.753.7803 (Olympia)
Weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (excluding state holidays)
Translation service is available for customers who do not speak English.

Web site: www.get.wa.gov

Mailing addresses:

For enrollment forms and payments

GET Program, P.O. Box 84824, Seattle, WA 98124-6124

For correspondence

GET Program, P.O. Box 43450, Olympia, WA 98504-3450

Office location

919 Lakeridge Way SW, Olympia, WA 98502

*In-person visits only – no mail delivery at this address
(FedEx/UPS accepted).*

Weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (excluding state holidays)

Directions are posted on our Web site.

Guarantee college tuition Guarantee peace of mind

www.get.wa.gov

Telephone: 1.800.955.2318 (toll-free) • Email: GETInfo@hecb.wa.gov



Washington State's
529 Prepaid College
Tuition Program

The Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board administers the GET Program while the Washington State Investment Board oversees its investments. The Committee on Advanced Tuition Payment, commonly referred to as the GET Committee, governs the program.

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